Edinb. 8°
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before 1702
(1) Cap. 21 g. 27/60

To His Grace, His Majesty's High Commissioner, and Honourable Estates of Parliament.

Additional Representation of Sir William Hope *Deputy Governor of the Castle of* Edinburgh, *against a most Clamorous and Invective Petition, given in by Mr.* William Cordon, *and his Wife, against the said Sir* William Hope, *to this Honourable House, and by them remitted to the Committee for Contraverted Elections.*

MR. *William Gordon* and his Wife having endeavoured to calumniat Sir *William Hope*, in a most scandalous and false Petition, which was lately given in to His Majesties High Commissioner, and this Honourable House: And which being moved to be read, was remitted (together with a true Representation of some of the Matters of Fact, which was given in by the said Sir *William Hope*) to the Committee for Contraverted Elections, before which it is depending; yet seing Sir *William*'s Modesty in the foresaid Representation, gives it seems Occasion to the said Mr. *William Gordon* and his Wife to clamour about, and attempt to traduce the said Sir *William Hope* in all Companies, by endeavouring to cause him pass for the most rigid Tacksman, and cruel Oppressor that ever was heard of; and least their unparaleled and unheard of Confidence should go too great a length, and have too much Influence upon some People, especially upon any of the Members of this Honourable House, to whom the said Sir *William Hope* is altogether unknown: Therefore, to expose the Malice and ill Nature of his Reviling Adversaries, (who deserve worse and harsher Names, for the Undiscreet Treatment he hath met with from them, and which he would give them, were it not for the Respect he bears to this Honourable House) he thinks himself indispensibly obliged, to give a true and impartial Representation of some further Matters of Fact, whereby it will appear, whether Mr. *William Gordon* and his Wife have such true Grounds to complain of Sir *William Hope*'s Procedure, as the said Sir *William* has just Cause, not only to become the Accuser and Complainer against them, but justly to resent their most Scandalous and Unsupportable Traducing, and Unchristian Back-biting and Slandering, whereby it would seem, they maliciously design, if it were possible, to stain his Reputation; But, Thanks be to GOD, he is above their Malice, and Proof against the Venom of their False and Reviling Language, and all who are acquainted with him, know him to be a Person altogether free from the Imputation they would load him with: Therefore, not so much for the Vindication of his Cause, which is most just, as for obviating his Adversaries Malicious Designs of Calumniating, he candidly and ingenuously gives the following Narrative of some further Matters of Fact, than what were represented in his former Papper, all which shall be proven by several Witnesses, when required; And it is hoped, That this, together with what was contained in his former Paper, will be a sufficient Evidence, to convince not only this Honourable House, but all unbyassed People, how unjust Mr. *William Gordon* and his Wife have been all along to the said Sir *William Hope*, not only by their Malicious Revilings and Aspersions, but also in narrating the Matters of Fact, which, as narrated by them, are altogether false, and the very *Reverse* of which, Sir *William* undertakes to prove, upon the highest Peril.

Sir *William Hope* Deputy Governor of the Castle of *Edinburgh*, Tacksman of the Estate of *Balcomy*, in the Moneth of *January* last bypast, having ordered his Factor, to cause the Tennents of *Balcomy* and *Kilminnen* deliver such a Quantity of their Farm Bolls, as he had sold to some Merchants at *Edinburgh*; The said Mr. *William Gordon* having notice thereof, did, by his Letter of Advice from *Edinburgh*, direct to one *Alexander Burnet*, order him to discharge the whole Tennents of *Balcomy* and *Kilminnen*, to deliver any Bolls to Sir *William Hope*, or any others having his Orders for that effect: And if the saids Tennents should not willingly observe his Commands as their Master, That then, and in that case, the said *Alexander Burnet* was to imploy all the Assistance he could make about that place of the Countrey, to effectuat the said Mr. *Gordons* Commands; In Obedience to which Letter, the said *Alexander Burnet* did upon the first, second, or third days of *February* last, or one or other of the days of the said Moneth, discharge the whole Tennents of *Balcomy* and *Kilminnen*, to deliver any of their Farm Bolls to Sir *William Hope*, or any having his Order: And they not being willing to obey his unjust Commands, he conveened a Rabble, a great part whereof were Mr. *William Gordon*'s own Servants, and

there, by all the rude methods, and hoſtile ways imaginable, did offer to ſtop the Delivery of the ſaids Farms, and gave all manner of Abuſe and Hinderance to the ſaids Tennents, for delivering of their Farms, by taking away the Keyes of their Barn Doors, cutting their Sacks when on Horſeback, and thereby damnified and loſt a great part of their Corns, threw in Chaff, and ſuch other Stuff among their dight Corns, and carried away their Sieves and Riddles, and thereby did a great dale of Prejudice and Abuſe to the ſaids Tennents: And ſome of Sir *William*'s Servants being informed thereof, and going to aſſiſt the ſaids Tennents, the ſaid *Alexander Burnet*, and his Accomplices, did aſſault them with Fire Arms and Swords, ſome of which are in the ſaid Sir *Williams* Cuſtody, and particularly *Mary Gordon* Daughter to the ſaid Mr. *William*, a Child of twelve years of Age, who carried ſecretly under ſome part of her Habit a long Houſhold Knife, came privatly behind one of the ſaid Sir *William*'s Servants, and pulled up his Coat behind, that ſhe might the eaſier thruſt in the ſaid Knife in his Back; but her Weakneſs not being able to effectuat her Deſign, the Man finding ſome ſharp Weapon entering his Body, turned about, and took the Knife from her.

In the Moneth of *March* laſt bypaſt, the ſaid Mr. *William Gordon*, as if he had been Heretor of the Eſtate of *Balcomy*, did conveen the whole Tennents, and, in a Baron Court, told the whole Tennents, that in reſpect none of them were under Tack, therefore they behooved either to gratifie him, to ſuffer them to continue in their Poſſeſſions, otherways he, as Heretor, would give them Warning at the Paroch Church Doors, and Charges of Removing to flit from their Rooms at the enſuin Term; conform whereunto, the ſaid Mr. *William Gordon* did cauſe give ſeveral of the Tennents Copies for that effect, and did cauſe ſerve publickly at the Church Door of *Crail*, a Warning againſt all thoſe of the Tennents, who had not componed with him for their continuing in their Poſſeſſions as ſaid is: And had not the ſaids Tennents been perſwaded of Mr. *William Gordon*'s being removed from the Houſe and Teinds of *Balcomy* before this time, moſt part of the ſaids Tennents had left their Rooms at *Balcomy*, upon the account of theſe Warnings and Charges of Removing, and the conſtant Impoſitions and Exactions laid upon them by the ſaid Mr. *Gordon*, and by this means, had made the half of the ſaid Eſtate at leaſt waſte, and without Tennents.

In the Month of *May* laſt, the Teind Fiſhes of *Fifeneſs* being expoſed to a publick Roupe by the Town of *Crail*, (to which they have an undoubted Right from the King, confirmed by Act of Parliament) the ſaids Teinds were ſet to *James Fairful* of *Kilduncan* for the behoof of the ſaid *Sir William Hope*, he having offered moſt for them, as the ſaid Act of Roup under the Clerks hand will teſtify: The ſaid *James Fairful* did at the Term of *Whitſunday* go to the Harbour of *Fifeneſs* to take Poſſeſſion of the ſaids Teind Fiſhes, that being the time he was to enter thereto, where *Eliſabeth Wood*, Spouſe to Mr. *William Gordon*, did appear with a great Crew of Men and Women, in an Inſolent manner, and there ſhe did by Violence take the ſaids Teind Fiſhes, and the day thereafter the ſaid *James Fairful* having appointed one to draw the ſaids Teinds, who accordingly did it, the ſaid *Eliſabeth Wood* did go to *Fifeneſs*, and did break open the Door of the Houſe where the ſaids Fiſhes were, and took them away, and carried with her a Fiſh Net of the poor Womans, to whom the Houſe did belong: The ſaids Mr. *Gordon* did by the ſtrength of hand continue in this unwarantable Practice till the Month of *Auguſt*; and that time there being ſomething due of Cuſtom and Anchorage at the ſaid Harbour of *Fifeneſs*, the time of the *Herring* Drove, the ſaid *James Fairful* did compear for his Intereſt as Tackſman; and the ſaid Mr. *Gordon* being informed thereof, he and his Wife did engage ſeveral People about that Place, and their own Servants, to fall upon the ſaids *James Fairful* and thoſe who ſhould aſſiſt him in collecting of the ſaids ſmall Cuſtoms and Teinds, and Beat him, and with the hazard of his Life, as appears by the Sequel: And to effectuat their Barbarous and unchriſtian Deſign, the ſaid Mr. *Gordon* did bring from the North of *Scotland* a Rude and Barbarous Fellow Named *Alexander Lumſden* alias *Gray Steel*, who was to Head the ſaid Party ſo hounded out by the ſaid Mr. *Gordon* and his Wife: In proſecuting of which, the ſaid *Alexander Lumſden* did by the Advice of the ſaid Mr. *Gordon* and his Wife, fall upon the ſaid *James Fairful* without any Provocation, and unexpectedly did beat him over the Head with a great Tree, and had not ſome of his Neighbours and Friends been with him at the time, the ſaid *Eliſabeth Wood* being preſent herſelf, and the reſt of her Accomplices, had certainly done her endeavour to have put her cruel Deſign in Execution againſt him.

Upon the 15, 16, or 17, days of the Month of *Auguſt* laſt, or one or other of the days of the ſaid Month, the ſaid *Eliſabeth Wood* being informed, that *James Bell* Officer to the ſaid Sir *William Hope*, was lodged in the Houſe of one *Euphan Bell* in *Lammas-green*, within the precinct of *Crail*, did go to the Houſe of the ſaid *Euphan Bell*, about five a Clock in the Morning, accompained with the ſaid *Alexander Lumſden* and ſome others her Aſſociats, and there made a particular

cular ſearch for the ſaid *James Bell*, thinking to have found him in his Bed, but he by providence was gone out of the Houſe before they came there: And the ſaid *Eliſabeth Wood*, not finding the ſaid *James Bell* himſelf, aſſaulted the poor Mans Wife and his Child in their Bed with a big Batton threatning no leſs then preſent Death, or at leaſt, the cutting the Ears out of her Husbands head, if ſhe could find him, or if he or ſhe offered to come upon her Lands of *Balcomie*. This rude and unchriſtian Carriage, and the many Threatnings the ſaid *Eliſabeth Wood* made againſt the ſaid *James Bell*, and his Wife, ſo frightned the poor Women, that even to this very day ſhe has never been ſo well in her Health and Judement: And thereafter ſhe went to *Fifneſs*, and there ſhe threatned to ſet Fire to the one end of the Town, and burn to the other, if any of the ſaid Fiſhers ſhould pay any Teind to the ſaid Sir *William*, or any having his Order: Upon this there was a Proceſs of Riot, and diſturbing the Peace, purſued againſt the ſaid Mr. *Gordon* and his Wife, before the Sheriff of *Fife*, which being proven, they were enacted to find Caution of Lawborrows, which they did, yet ſince that time they have been guilty of as great, if not greater Inſolences and Riots, and have continued ſtill in their abuſes, to a very high degree.

And the ſaids Fiſhers having payed ſome ſmall thing for their Teind the time of the *Hering* Drive, the ſaid Mr. *William Gordon*, did upon the 14, or 15 days of *October* laſt, or one or other of the days of the ſaid Month, under the Cloud and Silence of Night, go to the ſaid Town of *Fifeneſs*, accompained with his Wife, his Son, his whole Servants, and ſeveral others his Accomplices: And there in a moſt Rude and Barbarous manner, and in his ordinary Stile and ſet form of Swearing, did Aſſault one of the poor Fiſher-men with a drawn Sword in his own Houſe, and Thruſt moſt deſperatly at the Man, but he having made his eſcape by providence, and by the aſſiſtance of Mr. *Gordons* Wife, ſhe with ſome others of his Servants ſeing him in ſuch a fit of Madneſs and diſtraction, fearing he ſhould do ſome Murder about the place, maſter'd his Sword, with which he was ſo diſſatisfied at his own Wife, that he threw her in a Pudle, got upon her with his Feet, and becauſe ſhe had been acceſſory to deliver him from ſuch a Creuelty, he had almoſt put out her Life with his Feet: Thereafter, he continuing in his Malice and Wickedneſs againſt the ſaids Fiſhers, he got upon the Roof of one of their Houſes himſelf, and ſicklike cauſed all his Accomplices go up on the reſt of them, and there did Tirr and Break the Roofs of all the Houſes in the Town, ſo that he made them Inhabitable: And thereafter, he without any legal Grounds, did at his own hand Rob the Fiſhers Nets, took ſeveral things out of their Houſes to a good value; and did ſo frighten their Wives and Children with his dreaful Oaths, and cruel Threatnings, that hardly any of them came within their own Houſes that Night for fear he had ſet fire in the Town in the Night time; and in a Day or two thereafter, he came to the ſaid Town of *Fifeneſs* in his ordinary Temper of Diſtraction and Wickedneſs, and there Swore many execrable Oaths, That if there were a Soul of them there in 24 Hours thereafter, he ſhould burn the Town about them, and all they had, and the ſaids poor Fiſhers, and their Wives and Children, being ſo dreadfully Terrified by this horrid and cruel Method of Mr. *Gordons*, and not thinking it their Intereſt to truſt their Lives, or what they had to the Mercy or Reverence of a Perſon in a manner Diſtracted, all of them were forced to leave the Place in a day thereafter, and went to *Crail* for ſhalter to them and their Families, where they remain to this day: By which Barbarous and unwarantable Practice, the poor Men, and their Wives, and Children, are now almoſt reduced to Beggarie; He having at this time ſo drawn up their Boats to a full Sea, and hindered them the uſe of them for Fiſhing.

In the end of the ſaid Month of *October*, the ſaid Mr. *William Gordon* did conveen the Tenents in a kind of Court, as he uſually does when he is to give his Orders to them, and there he ordained thoſe who had not componed with him, for continuing in their Rooms, to flit and remove immediatly from the Lands; by which means he forced ſeveral of the Tenents to give him Money to ſuffer them to continue in their Poſſeſſion, notwithſtanding that this Power belongs only to the ſaid Sir *William Hope* as Tackſman; and thoſe who would not ſatisfie him, he offered to diſpoſſeſs them, by cauſing others ſtrick their Ploughs upon their Rooms, and threatned likewiſe to take their Corns, and the pleniſhing of their Rooms from them, for payment and Satisfaction to him of their by-gone Reſts (although the ſaids Reſts do really only belong ta the ſaid Sir *William Hope*) and thereafter diſcharged the whole Tennents, under their higheſt Peril to deliver their Farms, or any part thereof, for this preſent year, to the ſaid Sir *William Hope* as Tackſman, or to any other having his Orders: Now, after ſuch Cruel, Barbarous, and moſt Illegal Treatment of the poor Tenents and Fiſhermen, Sir *William* leaves it to the Judgment of this Honourable Houſe, and all unprejudged People, to determine whether or not he be well uſed by Mr. *William Gordon*, his Wife, and their Accomplices, as a Tackſman who ought to be mentained in his peacable

able Poſſeſſion; and if they have juſt reaſon to traduce and calumniat the ſaid Sir *William Hope* in all Companys, at the moſt Scandalous and Unchriſtian rate, that they do.

Sir *William* could ſay a great deal more, which would all tend to Mr. *William Gordon* and his Wifes diſadvantage; and were he of their reviling Temper, could alſo pay them home in their own Coin; but as he thinks ſuch Scandalous Language below any Gentleman, ſo not to croſs his own Natural Inclination, he willingly forbears it.

Only he cannot omit, declaring to the World, with what Gratitude he is repayed by Mr *William Gordon*, for releaving the ſaid Mr. *William* out of Priſon, where, in all probability he would have lyen and Rot, had not Sir *Willam Hope* by his own Inclenation, and out of an extraordinary, and ſomewhat unuſual Generoſity, payed betwixt two and three Thouſand Merks for him; and yet after he was releaſed, ſuch was his and his Wifes impudence, that they aſſerted in all Companys, That he was Incarcerat at the ſaid Sir *William Hopes* inſtance; but after ſuch unparalleled Ungratitude, what can be expected.

By all which it is moſt evident, how rude and undiſcreet the ſaid Mr. *William Gordon* and his Wife have been to Sir *William Hope*, and eſpecially, how unjuſtly Clamorous and Traducing, not only in their late Scandalous Petition, but in all their Diſcourſe wherever they go, and that all that the ſaid Sir *William Hope* did, was to ſecure his Right, and for peaceable Poſſeſſion as Tackſman, for which the Souldiers were only ſent over for his Aſſiſtance and Protection. And althongh that this pretended Riot was before His Majeſty's Honourable Privy Council, and Sir *William* aſſoilzied therefrom, yet if there was any Eſcape againſt Form, (which was only the Souldiers going ſtreight to *Balcomy*, inſtead of going in by *Couper* of *Fife* for the Sheriffs immediat Warrand, Sir *William* having intimat the Sequeſtration by the Sheriffs ſpecial Order) yet it was, what was not in the leaſt deſigned, neither was there any the leaſt prejudice done thereby to Mr. *William Gordon*, the only Intention of ſending the Souldiers over, as ſaid is, being to protect the ſaid Sir *William Hope* in his Right, and poor oppreſſed Tennents and Fiſher Men, againſt the Inſults of Mr. *William Gordon*, who, notwithſtanding of a Sequeſtration of the Teinds, as ſaid is, by the Sheriff of *Fife*, for the ſaid Sir *William Hope*'s behoof, did nevertheleſs endeavour by all means to embazle and deſtroy them, until the ſaid Sir *William Hope* was neceſſitat to interrupt him by the method aforeſaid.

In reſpect of all which, the foreſaid ſcandalous and falſe Petition given in by Mr. *William Gordon* and his Wife, ought not only to be rejected, but the Adviſers and Drawers up of ſo Unworthy and Calumnious a Paper ſeverely reprimanded by this Juſt and Honourable Houſe, which, amongſt other good things, will, it is hoped, take effectual Care to prevent the unjuſtly Calumniating, and endeavouring to Defame any of His Majeſty's Leidges, but eſpecially ſuch as have the Honour to be imployed under the Government, and to carry His Majeſty's Commiſſion.